

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~

25X1A

COUNTRY China

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 20 September 1948

SUBJECT Political and Economic Information: Movement of Soviet Citizens from Mukden to Harbin

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X.

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] more than 200 Soviet residents of Mukden, including a number of women and small children, had moved to Harbin; all had arrived safely.
- 25X1A 2. The trip costs each person four Chinese silver dollars paid in Mukden to a Chinese guide. [REDACTED] Comment. During the week prior to the introduction of the new currency on 20 August 1948, the Chinese silver dollar was worth approximately US seventy cents.) Both Chinese Nationalists and Communists have exerted every effort to facilitate this movement of Soviet citizens. The only dangerous part of the trip is the hour's journey between the Government lines at Hsinmin (122-48, 41-59) and the Communist lines at Changwu (122-29, 42-23). In this area bandits have robbed nearly all the Soviet travelers of their possessions and have taken from the men all clothing except undergarments.
3. Letters in the form of messages written on pieces of cloth and delivered by Chinese have been received from most of the Soviet persons who have left Mukden. All find living much easier in Harbin, where they have secured jobs with the railroad or have opened small shops (tailoring, shoe-repairing, etc.) to do business with other Soviet citizens.
4. All Soviet persons not desiring to continue living under strict Soviet control are making frantic efforts to move into China proper. They are convinced that if Mukden falls to the Communists, Soviet Communists will accompany the Chinese or soon follow them and that thereafter no Soviet person will be able to escape Soviet controls.
5. Soviet officials are making little effort to aid members of the Mukden Soviet community. Employees of Soviet-owned industry receive a monthly salary of \$3,000,000 Tungpei (US \$3.00). At present in Mukden meat costs \$300,000 per pound and eggs \$35,000 each.

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